

State Board of Physical Therapy

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FILED

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JUL 08 2002

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF :

IRENE HARRIS- POOLE, PTA :
Licensed No. QB0099 :

TO PRACTICE AS A PHYSICAL :
THERAPY ASSISTANT IN THE :
STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER GRANTING
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF
LICENSURE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy (hereinafter "the Board") upon a request from Our Lady of Lourdes Health System to verify the physical therapy license of Irene Harris-Poole (hereinafter "the Respondent"). Specifically, it has been alleged that the respondent worked as a physical therapist without a New Jersey license at Our Lady of Lourdes Health System from February 28, 2000 to January 20, 2001. On March 12, 2002, respondent appeared with counsel, Carol A. Weil, Esq., at an investigative inquiry into the matter held by the Board.

Having reviewed the entire record, including the testimony of respondent at the investigative inquiry, it appears to the Board that the respondent was licensed as a physical therapist assistant in New Jersey but failed to renew this license as of January 31, 1994. The respondent testified at the inquiry that she received a Masters in Physical Therapy from Barry University in 1995. She confirmed that she sat for the national physical therapy licensing exam on November 8, 1995, March 6, 1996 and July 10, 1996 but she did not pass the examination. The records of the Board demonstrate that respondent was never granted a New Jersey license to practice physical therapy.

The respondent affirmed that she has been employed as a physical therapist and has engaged in the practice of physical therapy at various facilities in New Jersey since August of 1995. The respondent also testified that she supplied to her employers a license, number QA 05861, which belonged to another licensee, which she altered to include her name, address and the pertinent renewal period. The respondent also provided the committee with a statement in mitigation of her actions which included the hardships that she encountered from 1982 to the present.

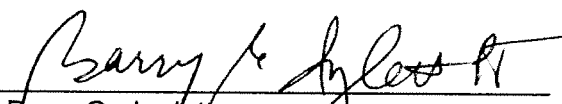
These facts establish basis for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(a) and (b). It appearing that respondent desires to resolve this matter without admissions and without recourse to formal proceedings and for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS 8th DAY OF July, 2002,
HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent, Irene Harris-Poole, is hereby granted leave and shall immediately permanently surrender her license to practice as a physical therapist assistant in the State of New Jersey with prejudice to any further re-application.

2. Respondent agrees that she will not submit an application to sit for the examination for the physical therapy license nor apply for such license for a period of seven years from the entry date of this order.
3. Respondent shall return to the Board the falsified license to practice physical therapy, license # QA05861, which is valid from February 1, 2000 to January 31, 2002 and any other falsified license(s) she may have in her possession.
4. Respondent is hereby assessed the costs of the investigation to the State in this matter in the amount of \$541.00. A certification of costs is attached hereto. Payment for the costs shall be submitted by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey and submitted to the Board no later than thirty (30) days from the entry of this Consent Order. Payment shall be sent to Susan Gartland, Executive Director, New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy, P.O. Box 45014, Newark, New Jersey, 07101.
5. Failure to remit any payment as required by this Order will result in the filing of a certificate of debt.
6. Respondent shall continue to cease and desist from the practice of physical therapy either as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant in New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF

By: 
Barry G. Inglett
Chairperson

QA1462

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to

enter this Order.

Irene Harris-Poole

Irene Harris-Poole, P.T.A.

Consented to as to form and entry:

Carol A. Weil

Carol A. Weil, Esquire

Attorney for Irene Harris-Poole, P.T.A.